

Report of the auditor-general to Limpopo Provincial Legislature and council on the Molemole Local Municipality

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Molemole Local Municipality set out on pages ... to ..., which comprise the statement of financial position, statement of financial performance, statement of changes in assets, cash flows statement, and the statement of comparison of budget information with actual information for the year then ended, as well as the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.
2. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the municipality as at 30 June 2018, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with South African Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (SA Standards of GRAP) and the requirements of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003(Act No, 56 of 2003) (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act,2017 (Act No.3 of 2017).

Basis for opinion

3. I conducted my audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of this auditor's report.
4. I am independent of the municipality in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of ethics for professional accountants* (IESBA code) and the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit in South Africa. I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA code.
5. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of matters

6. I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Restatement of corresponding figures

7. As disclosed in notes 44 and 45 to the financial statements, the corresponding figures for 30 June 2017 have been restated as a result of an error discovered in the financial statements of the municipality at, and for the year ended, 30 June 2018 and the implementation of mSCoA (municipal standard chart of accounts).

Significant uncertainty

8. With reference to note 42 to the financial statements, the municipality is the defendant in several legal claims. The municipality is opposing these claims as it believes the claims to be unfounded. The ultimate outcome of the matter cannot presently be determined and no provision for any liability that may result has been made in the annual financial statements.

Impairments – trade debtors

9. As disclosed in note 33 to the financial statement the municipality reviewed its basis for debt impairment calculation to the amount of R2 465 270.

Material losses– electricity

10. As disclosed in note 51 to the financial statements, material electricity losses to the amount of R871 697 (2016-2017: R373 249) were incurred which represent 10% (2016-2017: 5%) of total bulk electricity purchased. Technical losses amounted to R871 697 (2016-2017: R373 249) were due to illegal connections and aging of electrical infrastructure assets.

Unauthorised expenditure

11. As disclosed in note 47 to the financial statements, unauthorised expenditure amounting to R1 433 680 has been incurred by the municipality, due to expenditure incurred in excess of the limits of the amounts provided for in the votes of the approved budget.

Other matters

12. I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Unaudited supplementary schedules

13. The supplementary information set out on pages' x to x does not form part of the annual performance report and is presented as additional information. We have not audited these schedules and, accordingly, we do not express a conclusion thereon.

Unaudited disclosure notes

14. In terms of section 125 (2) (e) of the MFMA the municipality is required to disclose particulars of non-compliance with the MFMA. This disclosure requirement did not form part of the audit of the financial statements and accordingly I do not express an opinion thereon.

Responsibilities of the accounting officer for the financial statements

15. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with SA Standards of GRAP and the requirements of the MFMA and DoRA and for such internal control as the accounting officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
16. In preparing the financial statements, the accounting officer is responsible for assessing the municipality's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating

to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the appropriate governance structure either intends to liquidate the municipality or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

17. My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.
18. A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in the annexure to this auditor's report.

Report on the audit of the annual performance report

Introduction and scope

19. In accordance with the Public Audit Act of South Africa, 2004 (Act No. 25 of 2004) (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report material findings on the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report. I performed procedures to identify findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.
20. My procedures address the reported performance information, which must be based on the approved performance planning documents of the municipality. I have not evaluated the completeness and appropriateness of the performance indicators/ measures included in the planning documents. My procedures also did not extend to any disclosures or assertions relating to planned performance strategies and information in respect of future periods that may be included as part of the reported performance information. Accordingly, my findings do not extend to these matters.
21. I evaluated the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information in accordance with the criteria developed from the performance management and reporting framework, as defined in the general notice, for the following selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report of the municipality for the year ended 30 June 2018

Development priorities	Pages in the annual performance report
KPA 1 – Spatial rationale	x – x
KPA 2 – Basic service delivery and infrastructure planning	x – x

22. I performed procedures to determine whether the reported performance information was properly presented and whether performance was consistent with the approved performance planning documents. I performed further procedures to determine whether the indicators and related targets were measurable and relevant, and assessed the reliability of the reported performance information to determine whether it was valid, accurate and complete.

KPA 1 – Spatial rationale

23. I did not raise any material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for development priority.

KPA 2 – Basic service delivery and infrastructure planning

24. The material finding in respect of the usefulness and reliability of the selected development priority is as follows:

Complete sports complex

25. The planned target for this indicator was not specific in clearly identifying the nature and required level of performance and measurable. Consequently, I was unable to determine reliability of the reported performance target.

Other matters

26. I draw attention to the matters below.

Achievement of planned targets

27. Refer to the annual performance report on pages' x to x for information on the achievement of planned targets for the year. This information should be considered in the context of the opinions expressed on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information in paragraphs [x; x; x] of this report.

Adjustment of material misstatements

28. I identified material misstatements in the annual performance report submitted for auditing. These material misstatements were on the reported performance information of basic service delivery and infrastructure planning. As management subsequently corrected only some of the misstatements, I raised material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information. Those that were not corrected are reported above.

Report on the audit of compliance with legislation

Introduction and scope

29. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report material findings on the compliance of the municipality with specific matters in key legislation. I performed procedures to identify findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.
30. The material findings on compliance with specific matters in key legislations are as follows:

Annual financial statements, performance and annual reports

31. The financial statements submitted for audit were not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of section 122 (1) of the MFMA.
32. Material misstatements of receivables, assets and disclosures items identified by the auditors in the submitted financial statements were subsequently corrected, resulting in the financial statements receiving an unqualified audit opinion.

Procurement and contract management

33. Persons in the service of the municipality with business interest in contracts awarded by the municipality failed to disclose such interest, as required by the code of conduct for staff members issued in terms of the Municipal System Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000)

Revenue management

34. An effective system of internal control for debtors was not in place, as required by section 64(2)(f) of the MFMA.

Consequence management

35. Some of the irregular expenditure incurred by the municipality were not investigated to determine if any person is liable for the expenditure, as required by section 32(2)(b) of the MFMA.

Other information

36. The accounting officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report which includes the audit committee's report. The other information does not include the financial statements, the auditor's report and those selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report that have been specifically reported in this auditor's report.
37. My opinion on the financial statements and findings on the reported performance information and compliance with legislation do not cover the other information and I do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.
38. In connection with my audit, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.
39. I did not receive the other information prior to the date of this auditor's report. When I do receive and read this information, and if I conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request that the other information be corrected. If the other information is not corrected, I may have to retract this auditor's report and re-issue an amended report as appropriate. However, if it is corrected this will not be necessary.

40. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, reported performance information and compliance with applicable legislation; however, my objective was not to express any form of assurance on it. The matters reported below are limited to the significant internal control deficiencies that resulted in basis for opinion, the findings on the annual performance report and the findings on compliance with legislation included in this report.
41. The accounting officer reviewed the annual financial statements and the annual performance plan with the assistance and support of the governance structures prior to their submission for audit, but a number of material misstatements were still identified.
42. Daily and monthly internal controls measures in place are not adequate to identify prevent and correct all the errors and misstatements in the financial statements to ensure compliance with the relevant laws and regulations applicable to the municipality for reporting.
43. Non-compliance with laws and regulations could have been prevented had compliance being adequately reviewed and monitored by management and those charged with governance.

Auditor-General

Polokwane

30 November 2018



AUDITOR-GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

Auditing to build public confidence

Annexure – Auditor-general’s responsibility for the audit

1. As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout my audit of the financial statements, and the procedures performed on reported performance information for selected development priorities and on the municipality’s compliance with respect to the selected subject matters.

Financial statements

2. In addition to my responsibility for the audit of the financial statements as described in this auditor’s report, I also:
 - identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control
 - obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the municipality’s internal control.
 - evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made which constitutes the accounting officer
 - conclude on the appropriateness of the accounting officer’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements. I also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Molemole Local Municipality ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial statements about the material uncertainty or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion on the financial statements. My conclusions are based on the information available to me at the date of this auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause a municipality to cease continuing as a going concern
 - evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation

Communication with those charged with governance

3. I communicate with the accounting officer regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.
4. I also confirm to the accounting officer that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and communicate all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to have a bearing on my independence and, where applicable, related safeguards.

